

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 11, 2004 with claims 1-37. Claims 1-37 remain pending and claims 1 and 27-30 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action dated June 27, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over an B. Medjahed et al. article entitled, "Business-to-Business Interactions: Issues and Enabling Technologies," (hereinafter "Medjahed") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0212778 (hereinafter "Collomb").

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Medjahed in view of Collomb, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited combination fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness in that the collective teaching of Medjahed and Collomb fails to suggest or to render obvious at least the elements of independent claims 1 and 27-30 of the present invention. For at least this reason a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Independent claims 1 and 27-30, recite techniques for managing data associated with a given domain. A specification of data attributes representing one or more types of data to be managed is maintained. A specification of algorithms representing one or more types of operations performable in accordance with the data attributes is maintained. A specification of relationships representing relationships between the data attributes and the algorithms is maintained. The data attribute specification, the algorithm specification and the relationship specification are maintained in a storage framework having multiple levels. The multiple levels are specified based on the given domain with which the data being managed is associated.

Medjahed discloses techniques, systems, products and standards for business-to-business interactions and a set of criteria for assessing the different business-to-business interaction techniques, standards and products. Collomb discloses an object-oriented modeling approach used to represent telecommunication services, parameters and calculation expressions associated with the parameters.

In rejecting the independent claims, the Examiner cites particular portions of Medjahed and Collomb for support for the rejection of each limitation. With regard to the limitation of "maintaining a specification of data attributes," the Examiner cites a portion of Medjahed describing

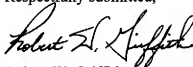
trends in supporting business-to-business interactions, specifically XML-based business-to-business interaction frameworks. With regard to the limitation of “maintaining a specification of algorithms,” the Examiner cites portions of Collomb that describe an expression class that defines expressions. With regard to the limitation of “maintaining a specification of relationships,” the Examiner cites a portion of Collomb describing relational databases and action procedures used to compute secondary parameters and/or aggregation values. However, the combination of Medjahed and Collomb fails to disclose a specification of such action procedures. Further, the cited combination fails to teach or suggest that the action procedures of Collomb represent relationships between data and elements in the expression class of Collomb.

Finally, with regard to the limitation of maintaining the specifications in a storage framework having multiple levels, the Examiner cites the portion of Medjahed reciting trends in supporting business-to-business interactions, specifically Electronic Business XML (ebXML). However, ebXML describes business process specifications stored in a business library, and fails to disclose the maintaining of three different types of related specifications in a storage framework having multiple levels. Further, while ebXML describes three types of storage components, it fails to disclose that storage framework levels are specified based on the domain with which data of the specifications is associated.

Dependent claims 2-26 and 31-37 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from respective independent claims 1 and 30 and also recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Griffith" clearly distinguishable.

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